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on Tuesday, 12 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President : Mr. TEJERA PARIS (Venezuela)
(Vice-President)

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Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: (continued)

(b) International cooperation within the United Nations system against the illicit production, sales, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (continued)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Tejera Paris (Venezuela), Vice-President, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME (continued) (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91):

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALES, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (continued) (E/1994/58, E/1994/95)

Mr. VENKATARAMAN (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was well under way and that UNIDO was about to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with UNDCP with a view to developing joint activities. Its overall programme strategy was to fight the illicit drug business establishment by creating investment opportunities for the private sector, including farmers, and thus to fight an illicit but efficient business with another efficient, but legal, private business.

The drug problem in developing countries was directly related to the economic and employment situation; therefore a techno-economic base dependent on industrial development must be created, which would contribute directly to poverty alleviation. Crop substitution for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the cultivation of illicit drug crops had been only partially successful, since the income thus generated was comparatively low. It was worth noting, however, that the income to farmers derived from the cultivation of illicit drugs was a mere 6 per cent of their wholesale value in urban markets. Several high value-added agro-industrial products, if selected properly according to potential markets, could generate a comparable income for those farmers, however. Among strategies adopted were the development of small-scale industries in areas close to illicit growing areas in order to reduce migration to those areas, and assistance to licit opium-growing countries in the efficient conversion into licit drugs to minimize any excess stocks. In illicit growing areas, women were being integrated into legal economic activities such as processing of food and spices to motivate them to cultivate alternative crops. In addition, UNIDO had addressed the associated problem of the spread of HIV/AIDS among

(Mr. Venkataraman)

drug addicts by initiating projects for the production of disposable syringes and other medical supplies.

Mr. VILLALOBOS (Chile) said that his Government agreed with the primary importance accorded in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1994/58) to national master plans for drug abuse prevention and control. The major requirement for a successful approach to the problem was the political will of States, but they, in turn, required support from international organizations. The work of UNDCP in that area had been outstanding, but the other organizations of the United Nations system must join in that effort to a greater degree. Chile had received technical assistance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and believed that bodies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) could make a significant contribution in the area of drug control.

Chile placed great importance on international cooperation because it understood that, without it, any efforts to attack the drug problem would be frustrated. It had entered into agreements with many countries, including its neighbours, Argentina, Bolivia and Peru, which had resulted in police and judicial cooperation, mutual support for education and treatment programmes, and the control of chemical substances and other relevant materials. Those four countries had signed a cooperation agreement with UNDCP to develop joint projects, with its support, in the areas of prevention and treatment, trafficking, trade in precursors, money laundering and alternative development. That experience with subregional agreements could be duplicated in other regions and was a realistic way for UNDCP to achieve its goals.

Mr. TURNQUEST (Bahamas) said that because of the drug problem, his Government had been burdened with the need to spend its already meagre resources on law enforcement control of illicit transit traffic and on treatment and rehabilitation of the victims of drug abuse. Undoubtedly, the most significant development in drug control had been the creating of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. While it applauded the progress made in the three short years since it became operational, his delegation agreed that international cooperation should be strengthened in order to maximize the impact of United Nations anti-drug activities and to ensure consistency with other international and national

(Mr. Turnquest, Bahamas)

efforts. UNDCP could make a valuable contribution only if Governments gave it clear directives and the authority to discharge its mandate. It was the responsibility of Member States to become directly involved in its work, which required careful assessment of existing programmes with the system, with the objective of evaluating and determining whether it was responding to the problem adequately. To ensure better coordination, a closer, substantive working relationship should be developed between UNDCP and its main partners to enable them to formulate mutually supportive activities while respecting the lead agency concept.

His delegation also shared the view that international financial institutions must become more directly involved in system wide activities and supported the recommendation that UNDCP should further its dialogue with such institutions to include proposals such as drug-oriented economic research activities to assess the economic and social impact of illicit production, trafficking and abuse. The Global Programme of Action was a blueprint setting out a comprehensive course of action for drug abuse control in all its aspects and an integral part of the global strategy for drug abuse control. Primary responsibility lay with Governments, and the master plan approach provided a strategy for maximizing national efforts. His delegation did not, however, regard master plans as project documents. Rather, it was the articulation by Member States of their priorities and objectives in all areas of drug control and the steps that they intended to take to implement them. Once they were formulated, the United Nations must be ready to respond to the policy guidelines and directives of Member States.

While UNDCP had intensified its fund-raising activities, a budget deficit was anticipated towards the end of the current biennium. Without new pledges, it would be difficult to maintain its commitment to the expansion of its activities. UNDCP could hardly be expected to carry out its extensive mandate or to be competent and effective if it did not have the required level of resources.

In the examination of the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control, the role of the three principal bodies of the system with responsibility in that area, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, must be kept in mind. Their interconnectedness was crucial to the overall functioning of all other United Nations organs and agencies involved with drugs, and they must be examined closely to determine whether they were living up to

(Mr. Turnquest, Bahamas)

their respective mandates. The multidimensional nature of drug abuse and illicit trafficking posed very difficult challenges, and efforts to coordinate better the work of all relevant agencies was in the best interest of all countries.

Miss FERTEKLIGIL (Observer for Turkey) said that Turkey favoured a balanced approach to the drug problem that took into account all the different aspects, including supply and demand, illicit traffic, rehabilitation and money laundering. It also supported the UNDCP approach at the national, regional and global level and the close cooperation at all levels.

The work of the thirty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had led to consensus on the main lines of action in that area. Her delegation hoped that the Council would adopt the draft resolutions issuing from that session.

Her delegation reaffirmed its support to UNDCP as the central agency for the funding of programmes and activities to combat drugs. It must be given appropriate financial resources, and ways must be found to increase voluntary contributions in order to provide it with a solid financial foundation. Increased allocation of resources to general purposes rather than to specific projects could lead to better use of funds for regional and subregional programmes and to improvements in long-term planning and management.

As a traditional drug-producing country, Turkey had obtained remarkable results in combating illicit production, abuse and traffic in drugs. Because of its location on the famous Balkan route, however, it faced growing concerns regarding illicit transit and was mobilizing considerable resources to meet that challenge. In that connection, she stressed the importance of bilateral and regional cooperation and close cooperation with the International Customs Union and Interpol.

The growing link between organized crime and the drug problem required increased coordination between UNDP activities and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division so that the two institutions could benefit from each other's experience.

Education, through public awareness campaigns in the press, were a crucial element in an effective campaign against drugs. Treatment and rehabilitation of addicts was also another very important aspect of the problem. The effective functioning of the international drug control system depended on the adherence by the greatest possible number of producing and exporting countries to existing

(Miss Fertekligil, Turkey)

international legal instruments and on the adoption by each of the necessary drug control measures in their own countries.

Mr. EMBLAD (Director, Substance Abuse Programme, World Health Organization) said that the debate thus far on the topic of narcotic drugs raised the concern that the World Health Organization (WHO) was the only specialized agency yet to have followed the General Assembly recommendation to set up a programme to deal directly with the problem of the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Furthermore, he was disappointed that the discussion of that item was not using the format of a more open and free debate, which might have been more constructive for all the participants.

Although the traditional pattern of dealing with alcohol and drug problems had been to develop separate policies for alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and prescribed psychotropics, there was a rationale for a more comprehensive approach to all drug-related problems. The use of all such substances could lead to harm, and in many countries treatment services and prevention programmes for both licit and illicit substances were already under a single administrative structure. Much more would be achieved by regarding the roles of the specialized agencies as complementary rather than by referring to their respective coordinating functions. WHO had a worldwide network of expertise that could be made available to other United Nations organizations. However, a single solution would not apply everywhere, and it was important to have alternative approaches and complementary activities suitable for different purposes.

The criteria for successful cooperation within the united Nations system were that collaborating agencies must have shared goals and objectives and that both parties would be able to achieve more by working together than by working separately. Furthermore, the specific mandates of collaborating agencies must always be fully recognized and respected. WHO was ready to assist Governments in the preparation of national plans, although little use had been made of its expertise in recent years. Under the international drug control conventions, WHO had the exclusive mandate to assess dependence-producing psychoactive substances and make recommendations concerning their international control. It also had a mandate to provide advice on treatment approaches and the management of health problems associated with substance

(Mr. Emblad)

use. It had responsibility for developing and disseminating appropriate health technology and training health personnel.

WHO fully supported the principle of sharing data among organizations on a continuous basis and had just received some country drug abuse profiles from UNDCP. Their usefulness could have been improved, however, if collaboration had been sought from WHO during their preparation.

Resources and recommendations alone would not achieve the purpose of those programmes. The political will to cooperate to overcome the problem was the main requirement.

Mr. DZUNDEV (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that priority should be given to a timely exchange of information on drug-related problems among States as well as within the United Nations system. The role of the International Narcotics Control Board should be strengthened, and, at the national level, customs administration should become more stringent. No effort should be spared to curb drug demand on the national level. Basic institutional infrastructure must be developed to coordinate national demand reduction initiatives, and more cooperation was needed between law enforcement agencies. The role of the community and family was also of great importance.

Mr. Kwang-Jae LEE (Republic of Korea) commended the work of the global Programme of Action, the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the recent initiative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to expand cooperation among United Nations agencies by proposing a "bottom-up approach" initiated at the country level.

He drew attention to the importance of mobilizing additional contributions from international financial institutions, particularly for alternative development projects in order to halt drug cultivation. That accounted for 40 per cent of the UNDCP budget. He also stressed the importance of innovative fund-raising and awareness-building initiatives such as the anti-drug Goodwill Ambassadors. The first Goodwill Ambassador, the Chung Trio, of the Republic of Korea had been quite successful in raising funds through benefit concerts.

Action must be taken to block the rapidly growing involvement of organized crime in drug trafficking. Currently, thousands of banks were believed to be controlled by organized crime. Joint action by Governments was vital, since it was difficult for

(Mr. Kwang-Jae Lee, Republic of Korea)

national authorities to control drug trafficking, once it was in the hands of organized crime.

The role of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 must be strengthened. Many countries, including Korea, were in the process of adjusting their domestic laws in order to accede to that Convention. Lastly, he wished to stress the importance of establishing a worldwide database to promote the exchange of information among countries and international organizations. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the initiative by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to develop a database.

Mr. LUKASIK (Poland) noted that Poland was now a party to all international instruments on drug control and had developed the necessary infrastructure and standards in a relatively short time. In May, it had deposited instruments of ratification for the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic and had done much to amend its laws to cover such new areas as the control of precursors, money laundering and mutual legal assistance. An Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Task Force for the Control of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had been established. Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, the new Task Force comprised representatives of various ministries and had begun to coordinate activities in the fields of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement legislation and information. Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention, Poland would introduce penalties for the possession of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that connection, Polish experts had recently participated in a seminar held jointly with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe.

His delegation welcomed the statement delivered by the Executive Director of UNDCP and its valuable proposals on the Programme's role as coordinator and catalyst for action. Coordination was particularly vital in view of the global dimensions which drug trafficking had acquired through organized crime networks. His delegation therefore welcomed the enhanced cooperation and coordination between UNDCP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations of the United Nations system. It also agreed that UNDCP should have the broadest possible mandate in order to coordinate the fight against narcotic drugs.

(Mr. Lukasik, Poland)

However, drug strategies at the national level were equally important. National policy should be aimed at reducing the non-medical application or narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The liberalization of certain anti-drug regulations, which had been highlighted by the media, would not facilitate the establishment of a coherent drug control system. His delegation shared the view of the European Union that loopholes in a unified approach to the law were immediately exploited by black-market operators. That made it more urgent than ever for all States to fulfil their obligations under international agreements.

The participation of local non-governmental organizations must be ensured in demand reduction activities, the latest focus of drug control activities. His delegation supported the inclusion of educational programmes, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and community development in the agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The basic principles of demand reduction, prevention strategies and the interrelationship between law enforcement and medical services constituted an interesting framework for the discussions to be held under that agenda item. Those discussions should be aimed at exchanging experience and promoting effective plans of action.

Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation attached particular importance to international cooperation in the field of drug control and the role of the United Nations in that endeavour. The United Nations should also support active cooperation among relevant national authorities at the national, regional and subregional levels, and on a bilateral basis. His delegation supported the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the coordinating role of UNDCP in implementing the Global Programme of Action and the role of the International Narcotics Control Board as an independent body for monitoring the implementation of international conventions. In June 1993, an expert mission of the Board had helped Bulgaria to identify and eliminate deficiencies in its drug control policy and activities.

Bulgaria attached great importance to improving national capacity-building for drug control. In July 1993, it had set up an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate drug control activity. In 1991, it had established a special police unit in the Ministry of the Interior for combating organized crime. The unit had operative links with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and

(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

with national agencies of other countries. Technical assistance, including equipment and training for law enforcement authorities, was of paramount importance in building national capacity and strengthening drug control along the borders and inside national territory. His delegation hoped that bilateral donors and UNDCP would continue their fruitful cooperation in that area.

Bulgaria had been one of the first countries to sign and ratify existing international legal instruments on drugs control. It had also acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime. With the support of the UNDCP Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Branch, its legislative authorities had begun to bring national legislation into conformity with the Council of Europe Convention.

In Bulgaria, a major transit country for drugs, customs authorities had made a number of seizures along the so-called Balkan route (36 seizures in 1993, including 28 seizures of heroin). According to United Nations data, about 70 per cent of illicit trafficking in heroin to Western European countries took place along the classic Balkan route. According to German statistics, more heroin had been seized by Bulgarian authorities than by any other country along the Balkan route. The sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had forced most transport vehicles to head for Bulgaria's norther border along the Danube River, where the first 13 seizures had been made.

In addition, a domestic illicit market for psychotropic substances - and probably heroin as well - was developing. In the past two years, illegal cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis had been increasing in regions with high rates of unemployment. The decentralization and privatization of the pharmaceutical industry had made it increasingly difficult to control the production and spread of psychotropic substances.

His delegation shared the view that transit countries deserved special attention in the drug control effort. The experience gathered by already existing UNDCP regional centres could be successfully applied to the Balkan region. Bulgaria needed additional resources in order to address the problem of intensive traffic across its southern border. His Government was therefore considering an arrangement whereby it would swap debt for the control of illicit trafficking and drug abuse.

Mr. GULEY (Ukraine) said that he agreed with the view that, although significant progress had been made in enhancing coordination of United Nations activities in combating drug abuse, there was considerable room for improvement. In that connection, he stressed the need to make use of the Organization's unique potential as the centre for coordinating international action in the field of drug control and hoped that the radical restructuring of United Nations activities in that area would be instrumental in achieving that goal.

Ukraine fully supported the work of UNDCP in promoting accession by all States to the basic international instruments for combating drug abuse as well as compliance with the relevant obligations, particularly the need to bring national legislation into accordance with the provisions of those documents. Ukraine was a party to the 1961, 1971 and 1988 Conventions and had drawn up draft laws to incorporate their provisions in its national legislation.

In Ukraine, a national programme had been approved to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking for 1994-1997 and a coordinating council had been set up to oversee the activities of all State institutions and community organizations in that regard. Ukrainian health care agencies had signed agreements with all CIS member States on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and it was hoped that similar agreements would be signed with European States.

He underscored the importance of UNDCP activities with regard to the Eastern European States, which were being increasingly used for the transit of narcotic drugs to the West. In that connection, the establishment of a common database concerning drug smuggling and persons involved in such operations could be a major step forward by the relevant United Nations agencies.

His country attached particular importance to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. At its recent session, the Commission had adopted a number of important draft resolutions, including one on the establishment of a working group on cooperation at sea (A/CN/1994/L.12/Rev.1). Ukraine was interested in participating in the work of that group since the illegal drug trafficking by sea routes was a major problem for his country.

Mr. SUTOYO (Indonesia) said that greater coordination of activities by UNDCP was vital at a time when financial resources for anti-drug activity were limited. In that connection, his delegation agreed with the conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General on a System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse

(Mr. Sutoyo, Indonesia)

Control (A/49/139). UNDCP must go beyond its role as coordinator to ensure that other parts of the system incorporated aspects of drug control into their own programmes. The formulation of principles or guidelines drawing on policy positions could facilitate coordination (A/1994/58, para. 15). Coordination should be aimed at achieving substantive goals and objectives; to that end, certain activities which could be more readily implemented should be given priority. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system (E/1994/58), he stressed that UNDCP must focus on priority areas that dovetailed with national, subregional and regional strategies and on areas in which the United Nations system had a comparative advantage.

His delegation welcomed the UNDCP initiative to elaborate inter-agency agreements that set forth principles and frameworks for collaboration and coordination in the area of reporting. It also accorded high priority to establishing closer links with the international financial institutions. It agreed that the input of specialized organizations were crucial in view of the multifaceted nature of the drug problem and that, beyond the mere avoidance of duplication, coordination efforts should be proactive. His delegation also welcomed the fact that UNDCP had been granted observer status with the Joint Consultative Group on Policy. Developing countries already struggling to build national infrastructure should receive assistance in the formulation of their master plans which were also significant at the international, regional and subregional levels.

His delegation welcomed the priority attached to additional studies on the socio-economic impact of illicit drug trafficking and abuse. Such studies would help to sensitize development agencies to the implications of the drug problem. The urgency of addressing the drug problems as part of development programmes and policies was underscored by the fact that, according to the studies, the overall cost of drug abuse accounted for as much as 5 per cent of the world's annual gross domestic product. In that connection, his delegation believed that UNDCP should play a role in the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development. It looked forward to studying in detail the multi-agency paper on the social and economic consequences of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse to be submitted at the Summit. In conclusion, his delegation welcomed the observations and recommendations contained in

(Mr. Sutoyo, Indonesia)

the report of the Secretary-General on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system (E/1994/58).

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that her country's drug problems was aggravated by the proximity to the sources of supply, its location at the crossroads of commerce and transportation in South-East Asia and the population density of its large cities. Her delegation was concerned about the impact of the drug problem on children all over the world, particularly street children and children in other highly vulnerable positions. It was also deeply concerned about the situation of transit countries, particularly since traffickers were constantly changing and expanding transit routes to include more countries in order to elude detection. Another problem was the seemingly unabating cultivation of narcotic drugs in many countries, including her own, where marijuana was grown.

Her Government unequivocally supported strategies aimed at protecting children, particularly street children, from substance abuse through community development, empowerment, education and activities which offered them a healthier, safer and more constructive lifestyle. It supported the improved coordination of policies and programmes, particularly in three areas. The first area was the establishment and maintenance of a readily accessible database on programmes of the United Nations system and access to comparable databases maintained by regional and multilateral organizations; the second area was technical cooperation activities in drug abuse control, particularly at the operational level, in highly vulnerable countries such as transit States like the Philippines; the third area was judicial action with penal measures at the national level and possibly at the international level, in order to combat powerful drug lords and cartels. Her delegation also supported initiatives to address the problem of illicit drug cultivation, particularly long-term cultivation, within the context of integrated development programmes aimed at introducing economically viable alternative crops.

Ms. TOMKINSON (Australia) expressed her delegation's full support for the role of UNDCP but noted that, some three years after its creation, there was still duplication of effort within the United Nations system in combating the spread of illicit drugs. That diluted scarce resources and reduced effectiveness. The System-Wide Action Plan was not in place and it lacked both a time-frame for implementation and a realistic cost analysis.

(Ms. Tomkinson, Australia)

Greater collaboration was necessary between UNDCP and its main partners within the United Nations system. The System-Wide Action Plan must provide a centralized framework for proposals on funding and resources.

The uncoordinated nature of the System-Wide Action Plan was accentuated by the fact that its segments were presented by agency rather than by theme. Her delegation urged UNDCP, within the scope of its mandate set forth in General Assembly resolutions 45/179, 48/12 and 48/112, to bring together the various elements of the Plan so that clear priorities could be set and action could be taken without further delay. To that end, cooperative efforts on the part of each agency within the United Nations system were necessary. Consideration should also be given to strengthening UNDCP as a joint Programme and to giving it control of the resources and programmes of the other United Nations agencies that carried out drug control activities.

Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, asked the Executive Director of UNDCP which agencies or programmes had not yet elaborated plans for the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan and why. He would appreciate specific information on the problems of international financial institutions regarding contributions to the System-Wide Action Plan and on possible solutions to those problems. He wondered what institutional and practical problems the Programme had encountered in its efforts to collaborate with regional bodies both within the United Nations system and outside it. He also inquired about the practical difficulties of field-level coordination. The same questions could be put in reverse to the different agencies and programmes, particularly the financial institutions, concerning their cooperation with UNDCP. The representatives of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and of the World Health Organization had already made some remarks concerning their relationship with UNDCP. Further comments would be welcome.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that those agencies and funds which had not contributed were not mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General. He apologized for the exclusion of FAO and UNICEF, which had indeed contributed but which had not been included in the report because of printing deadlines. Two categories of UNDCP partners could be identified. First, there were those agencies which had cooperated

(Mr. Giacomelli)

with UNDCP predecessors, mainly the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), and which believed that UNDCP too was a donor, even though it was not.

UNDCP had established a Programme Review Committee to ensure that projects were approved only when they reflected the policy and action plans submitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The ability of various agencies to cooperate and accept increased coordination depended on the specific directives given by top management and the readiness of different offices and programmes to follow them. Precedent was a strong factor in any organization and the "trickle down" effect could not really be relied upon. It was obvious that the process of adjusting priorities and methodologies has a painful one in each organization. One of the main difficulties for UNDCP in the past three years had been finding budget funds for new activities. Much progress had been made in that regard and the Programme's dialogue with its partners had been developing.

Promoting acceptance of the new perception of drug-related aspects in various programmes and activities was a major task. Some agencies, particularly those involved in development, considered that drug-related activities were not particularly relevant to their mandates and work and should be dealt with by non-governmental organizations and humanitarian organizations. It took time to accept the fact that drug abuse was not exclusively a police or health problem and had a major impact on finance, development and politics. Steps had to be taken at an early stage to avoid situations such as that in Afghanistan, where drugs had become a problem as a result of a man-made disaster.

It took time to establish a dialogue and the Programme was making good progress in that regard. The bottom-up approach in coordinating activities at the field level had been a great success. It was essential to conduct a dialogue with Headquarters in order to determine a common mandate and methodology for working together. Only through that dialogue and the signing of agreements would it be possible to send the right instructions from Headquarters to the field. Close cooperation was essential in order to take initiative to identify action to be taken, and a balanced approach was necessary to determine strategies and ensure a division of labour in the field. The Programme was faced with a considerable task in providing updated information on the drug problem as it related to the new concept of human development. UNDCP was working with numerous agencies in order to present a common position at the World

(Mr. Giacomelli)

Summit for Social Development. He hoped that the final declaration would take account of drug-related issues relating to finance, the work-place, unemployment, women and children.

Mr. LUNDBORG (Observer for Sweden) said that the Programme's budget was decreasing in view of the minor commitment on the part of United Nations agencies and the rest of the system. In effect, the ability of UNDCP to coordinate was very limited since other agencies had little interest in the drug issue. He wondered how that situation could be changed. The System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control should be changed from a catalogue of different projects in order to involve agencies in drug control and make them feel that they were part of the Plan. He asked how the Programme could involve organizations in field-level activities, which was crucial.

The master plan concept could be an instrument for involving organizations and mobilizing resources in drug-related activities. UNDCP could be a catalyst in identifying crucial activities to be undertaken at the field level. He inquired to what extent drug-related activities had been incorporated in the IPF system and what problems arose in including such activities in country programmes. Lastly, he wished to know what could be done to increase the involvement of UNICEF in drug-related activities.

Mr. GICOMELLI (United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that he agreed that the System-Wide Action Plan should not be a list of projects. UNDCP had been defining different methodologies with its partners. At the field level, it was possible to identify common projects at an early stage. The Programme's field-office network had been undergoing a dramatic change in order to focus on the overall mandate of UNDCP. At the field level, where projects had to be formulated, the Programme sought to promote more effective local management. The master plans would have to be integrated into similar, broader exercises at the country level but must be formulated with full participation by representatives at the local level. It was essential to bear in mind that the master plan must remain an exercise by Governments, which were to be assisted by the Programme and the relevant agencies. Through such cooperation the master plans would constitute an effective basis for forming a global network. It should also be kept in mind that coordination was a slow, painstaking process that was sometimes at cross purposes

(Mr. Giacomelli)

with efforts to accelerate activities. Ideas were put forward in one organization and spread to others and were developed gradually as part of a collective endeavour.

Mr. EMBLAD (World Health Organization) said that his organization was still encountering the same difficulties that it had in the past. WHO had submitted approximately 30 proposals that had not been attended to because procedures were too complicated and time-consuming. Furthermore, there was a lack of expertise to review the technical validity of some of the proposals made. Agencies lacked information on the criteria for approving proposals, which was a long and expensive exercise. WHO was no longer in a position to submit new proposals until action had been taken on those that had already been put forward.

The master plans, which were being prepared to take into consideration issues relating to demand reduction, were not credible if the advice of WHO, the coordinator for international health issues, was consistently ignored or not even requested. WHO had repeatedly called upon the Programme to invite it to provide additional information for master plans. UNDCP should invite the World Health Organization to participate in that exercise as a matter of routine.

WHO had complied rigorously with the provisions of the System-Wide Action Plan and the Global Plan of Action, had met all the deadlines established by the Economic and Social Council and provided texts on all the issues in question. More often than not, however, those texts had been changed or abridged without consulting it. It was WHO's view that, where Member States had designated an agency to coordinate the rest of the system, that agency also had a major responsibility to distribute the funds allocated to it and to invite other agencies to submit proposals involving the use of those funds. That had not happened in the case of UNDCP. However, WHO wished to look towards the future and renewed its offer to cooperate with UNDCP and the other agencies involved in the drug abuse effort.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Observer for Algeria), noting that General Assembly resolution 48/112 invited the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to make greater progress in incorporating within their programmes and activities action aimed at dealing with drug-related problems, asked the representatives of UNICEF and UNDCP what had been done to carry out that mandate.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that the Programme was continuing to develop its dialogue with UNICEF but did not feel that it was in a position as yet to provide an answer to the Algerian representative's question which would do justice to the results of that dialogue.

Mr. ALTESMAN (United Nations Children's Fund), replying to the representatives of Sweden an Algeria, said that, although UNICEF was not a major participant in direct drug abuse projects, it felt that it could make a major contribution in areas such as the incorporation of drug abuse information in primary school curriculum and by participating in such health education mobilization efforts as that represented by the publication "Facts for Life", which incorporated drug abuse information specifically related to the problems of individual countries, as well as by its work on the problem of street children, which incorporated a drug abuse dimension. It must be recognized that all the agencies involved were still working out a framework for cooperation, but in its experience to date UNICEF had found UNDCP to be receptive in planning for country-level coordination and in helping to place de focus of international efforts on action.

Mr. HONAD (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) agreed that there was still much room for improvement in coordinating the work of the agencies on drug abuse. UNESCO was not one of the core agencies involved with that problem, but, as many delegations had noted, preventive education could play a vital role in reducing the demand for drugs. Due credit should also be given to such less dramatic activities.

Mr. SHAHANDEH (International Labour Organization) agreed with the representative of Sweden that the international effort to deal with the problem of drug abuse was now in crisis, but noted that the crisis was one of long standing. ILO's experience had been that the developing coordination with UNDCP was very promising; it felt, however, that in order to maintain effective ongoing coordination it was necessary to develop formal programmes of cooperation as well as informal coordinating networks. The master plans developed by UNDCP had much potential, but the involvement of the agencies at an early date would help make them more comprehensive and promote their implementation by the agencies. His agency felt that there was also a need to build bridges between the individual agencies in the form of collaborative projects in such areas as the incorporation of demand reduction efforts in training programmes.

Mr. MAYHOFER-GRUENBUEHEL (Observer for Austria), said that the comments made by the representative of WHO gave rise to serious concern. The forthcoming meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), which would take up the question of drug abuse, offered UNDCP a unique opportunity, and he wondered what plans the Programme was making to take advantage of that opportunity. Beyond UNDCP's coordinating role, however, the Programme also had a responsibility to play a leading role in the worldwide drug abuse effort. He asked what the Programme was doing in that respect.

Mr. GIACOMELLI (United Nations International Drug Control Programme), replying to the comments by the representative of WHO, said that, when a large number of projects and proposals was received at the same time, as had been the case with WHO, time was needed to evaluate them, particularly with respect to their quality. The Programme had had some initial difficulties in dealing with those projects because it did not wish to issue a blank check to anyone, as had been the case in the past. However, he was sure that there was room for improvement in the Programme's work and he would keep the comments made by the representative of WHO in mind. In any event, the channels of communication between the agencies and the Programme were open, and care would be taken in the future to ensure that a common effort was made.

On the specific question of the forthcoming ACC meeting, he said that the Programme was preparing for that occasion in cooperation with the ACC Sub-Committee on Drug Abuse Control. In general, it must be recognized that difficulties would inevitably arise in the process of creating a more integrated system; in that respect what was needed above all was a change in attitude and culture.

Although reference had been made in General Assembly resolution 45/179 to the possibility of a leadership role for the Programme at the regional level, the Programme had been given no specific mandate in that respect. It was therefore necessary to proceed cautiously; the Programme was however, pursuing the matter energetically and with promising results.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.